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ABSTRACT

The scope of this yearbook is that of the Malta Library Association (MLA) itself, namely, the libraries and librarians of the Maltese Islands. This first issue of the MLA Yearbook contains the following information: (1) officers of the association; (2) the MLA constitution; (3) a list of members; (4) the first and second annual reports delivered to the annual general meetings in 1970 and 1971; (5) a 22-item bibliography on the libraries of Malta; and (6) a directory of Maltese libraries. (SJ)

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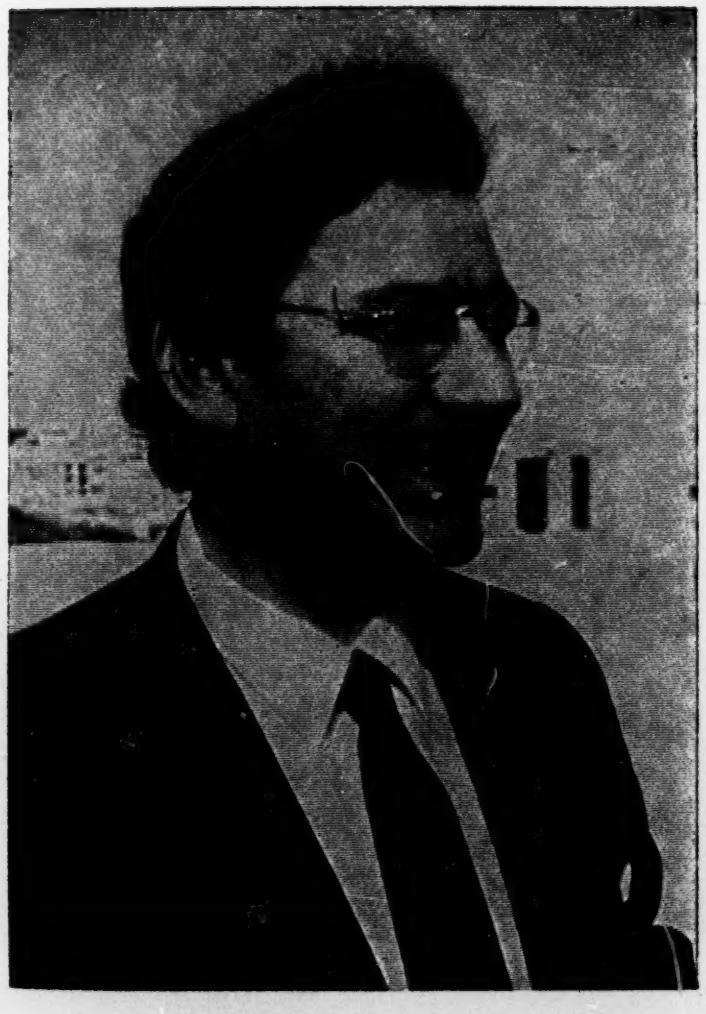

J. Montalto, A.L.A.

Chairman, 1969, 1970

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MALTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION YEAR BOOK

1971

EDITED BY
CARMEL G. BONAVIA
ANTHONY SAPIENZA
LILLIAN SCIBERRAS
AND PAUL XUEREB

VALLETTA
MALTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1971

LI 003 678

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Malta Library Association 1971

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Foreword

The scope of this Yearbook is that of the Malta Library Association itself, namely, the Libraries of the Maltese Islands and the welfare of those who have chosen to work in them. The Editors would like the Yearbook to become over the years an annual forum for ideas and discussion concerning the local library scene.

This is the first issue of the MLA Yearbook. We realize that compared to the enormous task ahead the effort might seem a rather meagre one. Its size however reflects nothing but the equally meagre funds of the Association. With more help and backing from Government and the general public, the MLA will be able to make more positive contributions in future.

The Reports of the Chairman will reveal that Malta faces an extremely difficult library situation, which will take a great deal of work to overcome. The two features of this particular issue, the Bibliography and Directory make valid contributions to the field whilst the more than 50-strong membership list is evidence of the growing interest in libraries and librarianship. The MLA has pledged itself to enkindle this spark into a flaming torch that no amount of bureaucratic cold water will be able to extinguish.

The Editors.

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HON. PRESIDENT.

Sir Hannibal P. Scicluna, Kt., M.B.E., Hon. M.A. (Oxon) Hon. LL.D. (Malta), F.S.A., L.P.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1969

Hon. Chairman: Mr. Josie MONTALTO, A.L.A.
Hon. Vice-Chairman: Dr. Paul XUEREB, B.A., LL.D., Dip. Lib.
Hon. Secretary: Rev. Anthony F. SAPIENZA, S.J., M.A. in Lib. Sc.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. John SULTANA, B.A., A.L.A.

Members:- Mr. Thomas Bason
Mr. Carmel Bonavia
Miss Marie Said
Miss Lillian Sciberras.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1969/70

Hon. Chairman: Mr. Josie MONTALTO, A.L.A.
Hon. Vice-Chairman: Dr. Paul XUEREB, B.A., LL.D., Dip. Lib.
Hon. Secretary: Rev. Anthony F. SAPIENZA, S.J., M.A. in Lib. Sc.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. John SULTANA, B.A., A.L.A.

Members:- Sr. Theresa Agius, R.S.C.J.
Mr. Carmel Bonavia
Miss Marie Said
Miss Lillian Sciberras.

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OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1970/71

Hon. Chairman: Dr. Paul XUEREB, B.A., LL.D., Dip. Lib.
Hon. Vice-Chairman: Rev. Anthony F. SAPIENZA, S.J., M.A. in Lib. Sc.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. Josie MONTALTO, A.L.A.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. John SULTANA, B.A., A.L.A.

Members:- Mr. Carmel Bonavia
Miss Marie Said
Sr. G. Sare, R.S.C.J.
Miss Lillian Sciberras.

Malta Library Association

Constitution

Interpretation.

The Association *means the Malta Library Association.*
Member *means a members of the Association.*
Books *shall include periodicals, records, filmstrips and other library material.*

1. **The name of the Association shall be the Malta Library Association, which may be abbreviated to MLA.**

2. **The object and aims of the Association are:**

   (i) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work;

   (ii) to assist in the improvement of the status, salaries and qualifications of Librarians, and to focus national attention upon Librarianship;

   (iii) to watch and make representation regarding legislation affecting libraries, the Law of Copyright, Legal Deposit and Laws affecting censorship of books, and to assist in the promotion of legislation concerning the improvement and satisfactory application of Library development;

   (iv) to encourage the establishment, promotion and use of libraries in Malta and Gozo;

   (v) to hold conferences and meetings concerning library matters and policies, and the general local advancement of the Profession;

   (vi) to promote, encourage and assist bibliographical studies and research.

   (vii) to form and mantain a Library collection for Members of the Association in such location as the association may decide;

   (viii) to collect, collate and publish information of service or interest to Members of the Association and the Community;

   (ix) to hold courses and examinations in Librarianship;

   (x) to maintain a register of qualified librarians.

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3. Membership will be open to:

a.

(i) Professional Librarians;
(ii) Library Trainees;
(iii) Persons gainfully employed in library activities and duties;
(iv) Other persons working in libraries, who are approved by the Council.

b. Persons who in the opinion of the Council have rendered distinguished service in promoting the objects and aims of the Association may be elected as *Honorary Members.*

4. The Council shall have power to nominate and elect as Honorary President of the Association a person — outside the Profession or a retired Professional librarian — whose election will be advantageous to the interests and objects of the Association. The Honorary President may become a member of the Council, and may act as Chairman in all General Meetings. The First Honorary President shall be elected by the foundation Members of the Association.

5. The Officers of the Association shall be: the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary, and/or such other Officers as may from time to time be thought necessary by the Association.

6. It is the duty of the Chairman to preside over all meetings of the Council, and, in the absence of the Honorary President, at all General Meetings of the Association. He is *ex officio* a member of all committees. In case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his own original vote.

7. The Vice-Chairman is to discharge the duties of the Chairman in the latter's absence, and in the case of death or resignation of the Chairman, or his inability to serve, the Vice-Chairman becomes Chairman *ad interim* for the remainder of the original term.

8. The Secretary shall call all meetings of the Council and shall keep a record of all proceedings, draft reports, issue notices, and conduct all correspondence, and act generally as the Executive Officer of the Association. The Minute Books shall be open to inspection by any Member of the Association at any reasonable time.

9. The Treasurer shall receive all monies due to the Association and shall make such payments as Council directs. He shall supervise the accounts of all receipts, payments, assets and liabilities. He shall deposit all monies accuring to the Association in such Bank or Banks as Council shall have determined upon. He must submit a Financial Report to the Annual General Meeting. The Account books shall be open to the inspection of any Member of the Association

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and to any other person interested in the funds of the Association at any reasonable time.

10. The Association shall determine the amounts* of all subscriptions and the entrance fee at the Annual General Meeting. Any member is eligible to life Membership for the payment of £20 (twenty pounds).

Annual subscription shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of January in each year.

Members who fail to pay their subscription by the first day of March in any year shall be deemed to have lost their membership.

*Entrance fees £1 0. 0.

Subscription rates:

a) Actual salary from £1,000 =£3 0. 0. *per annum*
b) Actual salary from £800-£1000 =£2 0. 0. *per annum*
c) Actual salary under £800 =£1 0. 0. *per annum*
d) Trainees and others = 10. 0. *per annum*

11. The Council shall be the Governing Body and the Executive Committee of the Association. Activities conducted in the name of the Association shall be under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Council, and controlled either directly or indirectly by members of the Council. Hence, any attempt of any individual or group of individuals to commit the Association to a course of action without prior approval and consent of the Council shall be null and avoid.

(i) (a) The Council shall consist of eight members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) The Council shall elect from among its members the four Honorary Officers mentioned in para. 5. Members who have held one of these Honorary Offices for two consecutive years may only be elected for a further year by a unanimous vote of Council taken on a secret ballot.

(ii) The Council shall have the power to co-opt not more than *two* persons for specific meetings or as occasion may require. Co-opted members will not be entitled to vote.

(iii) The Council shall have the power to **propose** a Rule, or an alteration to a Rule. The General Meeting reserves the right to approve or reject Council's proposals.

(iv) The Council shall manage all income, funds, endowments etc. of the Association, and may do all such things that shall be deemed necessary or expedient.

(v) No Member of the Council shall be entitled to vote in any

matter in which he/she has financial or other gainful interests either direcly or indirectly.

(vi) A Member of the Council who does not attend Council Meetings for two consecutive sessions without the consent and/or approval of the Council shall no longer remain a member of the said Council.

(vii) The Association in an Extraordinary General Meeting may remove an Officer or any Member of the Council provided a resolution to this effect passed by a two-thirds majority.

(viii) Any Officer/Member of the Council may at any time give notice *in writing* to the Council of his/her wish to resign and, on the acceptance of his/her resignation by the Council, his/her place shall become vacant.

(ix) The Council shall fill all vacancies for the remainder of the term by electing the candidate who received the highest number of votes among the unsuccessful candidates at the preceding Annual Election. If the above procedure cannot be followed, then an election is to be held at an Extraordinary General Meeting to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the original term.

(x) All vacancies must be filled as soon as possible and not later than one month after the vacancy occurs.

12. The Council may appoint Standing Committees. Members must be seleced from Council and from Members of the Association (i.e. non-Council Members) to deal with various departments of the Association's work and with such powers and under such conditions as from time to time should be fixed by the Council. Non-members of the Association may be co-opted in a consultative capacity.

13. **Council Meetings**

(i) The Council shall hold not less than **three** meetings annually. The Chairman shall preside over all the Council Meetings, and in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman shall take the chair.

Annual General Meeting

(ii) As from 1971, an Annual General Meeting shall be held each year during the first fifteen days of December at such time and place to be determined by the Council. The Meeting must be announced not less than **one month** beforehand. Each Member of the Association entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting

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must recieve at least **two weeks** in advance:

(a) the notice of the Annual Meeting;
(b) a copy of the Balance Sheet and Accounts of the Association;
(c) All motions to be discussed at the Meeting.

The Annual Meeting shall receive and consider:

(a) the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting;
(b) the General Report of the Council;
(c) the Treasurer's Report;
(d) all Motions of which notice shall have been sent to the Honorary Secretary not less than three weeks before the date announced for the Annual Meeting;
(e) the nominations for election of Members to Council which will take office on the 1st January immediately following the Annual General Meeting;
(f) the appointment of 2 (two) Auditors. No Officer of the Association shall be appointed auditor.

In the absence of both the Hon. President and the Chairman of the Council, the Members present shall choose one of their number to take the chair. This procedure shall be adopted at all Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings.

Extraordinary General Meetings

These may be convened by:

(iii) (a) Council whenever they think fit provided members entitled to attend and vote are notified; **in writing at** least 14 days before the meeting takes place.

(b) Any 3 (three) members of the Council **OR** any 10 (ten) Members entitled to vote at General Meetings, provided that the purpose for which the Meeting is required be stated in the requisition to the Hon. Secretary who must call the Meeting within 14 days of the receipt of the Notice **in writing** convening the Meeting.

No business shall be transacted at any Extraordinary Meeting except such as has been specified in the notice convening it.

14. **Council meetings**

(i) Unless otherwise determined, 5 (five) Members of the Council actually present shall form a quorum.

Annual General meeting

(ii) Unless 15 (fifteen) Members are present at the Annual Ge-

neral Meeting within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned for seven working days, at the same time and place. Business shall be proceeded with, notwithstanding that there shall be less than 15 (fifteen) Members present.

Extraordinary General Meeting

(iii) Unless 15 (fifteen) Members are present within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved.

15. At every General Meeting all questions shall be determined in **the first instance** by a show of hands. Voting for the election of Officers and Members shall be done by secret ballot. Two Members of the Association who are not candidates for election are to act as Scrutineers and must sign or initial all ballot papers.

The Chairman of the Meeting shall be the sole and absolute judge of the validity of every vote tendered at any meeting or poll.

16. Affiliations may be made with other Associations with kindred and mutual interests provided that:

(a) The Malta Library Associaton does not jeopardise its independence and activities according to its own policies;

(b) such affiliations are in conformity with its decisions regarding the extent or limits of obligations of such joint actions.

17. The Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds' vote of all those present at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting, provided the notice of the proposed amendments be sent for consideration to each member of the Association at least **one month** before final adoption.

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List of Members

1970: **AGIUS, Mario,**
58, Preziosi Street, Lija.
Marian Culture Group Library.

1969: **AGIUS, Theresa, R.S.C.J.**
Convent of the Sacred Heart, St. Julians.
Duchesne Library for Children.

1970: **ALLNUTT, Ian Peter**
61, High Street, Lija.
Honorary Member.

1970: **ASHWORTH, Wilfred, B.Sc, F.I.Inf. Sc., F.L.A.**
15, Thackery Court, Hanger Vale Lane, Ealing, London, w.5
Honorary Member.

1970: **AZZOPARDI, Francis, OFM Cap., Dip. Archiv. (Vat.).**
Capuchin Friary, Floriana.
Capuchin Province Library, 1957-1967.

1969: **AZZOPARDI, John, S.J., M.A.,**
Loyola House, Naxxar.
St. Aloysius College Boys' Library, 1967/68-1968/69.

1969: **BARRON, Revle**
British Embassy, 35, rue du Faubourg St Honore', Paris 8e, France.
Embassy Information Office.

1970: **BARTOLO, Hella Jean,**
Sunshine House, St. Micheal Street, Pawla.
Central Bank of Malta Library.

1969: **BASON, Thomas,**
"Alma", Borth, Cards, Wales.
College of Librarianship, Wales.

1969: **BONAVIA, Carmel,**
35, Victory Street, Zabbar.
The Lyceum (Malta) Library.

1969: **BONAVIA, Silvester, OFM Cap., B.A., B.A.(Hons).,**
Capuchin Friary, Floriana.
Capuchin Province Library.

1969: **BONNICI, Joseph,**
837/2, High Street, Hamrun.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **BORG, Maria Dolores,**
143, Sammat Street, Paola.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1970: **CAMILLERI, Magda,**
194, Tower Road, Sliema.
British Council Library.

1969: **CARABOTT, Margaret,**
2, St. Peter Alley, St. Paul Street, Ghaxaq.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **CARUANA, Inez,**
269/3, Prince of Wales Road, Sliema.
23rd Command (Army) Library.

1969: **CASSAR, Paul M.,**
9, St. Domenica Street, Victoria, Gozo.
Gozo Public Library.

1969: **CATANIA, Emmanuel,**
"St. Paul's", Parish Street, Naxxar.
Naxxar M.U.S.E.U.M. Centre Library.

1970: **CUELL, Helen,**
47, St. Margaret Street, Sliema.
British Council Library.

1969: **DAVIDSON, H., R.S.C.J.**
Convent of the Sacred Heart, St. Julians.
Hammersmith School Library, 1956-1960.

1969: **EBEJER, J.,**
19, Zimelli Street, Hamrun.

1969: **GALEA, Peter,**
8, Anglu Mallia Street, Birkirkara.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1970: **GRACE, N.M., O.B.E.**
c/o British High Commission, 7, St. Anne Street, Floriana.
British High Commission Information Office.

1969: **GRIMA, Joseph,**
119, Oratory Street, Cospicua.
Cospicua M.U.S.E.U.M. Centre Library.

1970: **GRIMA, Joseph R., B.A.,**
"Notre Dame", Mater Boni Consilii Street, Fgura.
Central Bank of Malta Research Department.

1970: **HARVEY, A.E.C., B.A.(Cantab.).**
13, Spinola Court, Upper Gardens, St. Julians.
Readers' Circle.

1969: **LEONE GANADO, Carlo,**
165A/2, Prince of Wales Road, Sliema.
Central Bank of Malta Library.

1970: **MARTIN, Joseph, Ph.C.,**
19, Balluta Buildings, St. Julians.
Royal University of Malta Medical School Library.

1969: **MERCIECA, Albert,**
"Mardon", West Street, Msida.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **MERCIECA, Anthony M.,**
17, Tomb Square, Victoria, Gozo.

1969: **MICALLEF, Benoit, S.J.**
226, St. Paul Street, Valletta.
John XXIII Memorial Library.

1969: **MIFSUD, John Andrew, S.J.,**
Loyola House, Naxxar.
Loyola House Library.

1969: **MONTALTO, Josie, A.L.A.,**
18, Ghar-il-Lembi Street, Sliema.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **MUSCAT, Rita,**
194, Old Bakery Street, Valletta.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1970: **NEAVILL, Gordon Barry, M.A. in Lib.Sc.**
48/4, St. Agatha Street, Sliema.
Royal Malta Library.

1970: **PACKMAN, James O.B.E., B.A., Dip. Lib. (Lond.), F.L.A.**
"Bonaventura", Nazju Ellul Street, Gzira.
University of Ife (Nigeria) Library, 1966-1970.

1969: **PORTANIER-SERRA, Auriol,**
13, Lany Flats, St. Louis Street, Msida.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **SAID, Marie,**
29, Upper Victoria Terrace, Sliema.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **SAPIENZA, Anthony F., S.J., M.A. in Lib. Sc.,**
226, St. Paul Street, Valletta.
John XXIII Memorial Library.

1969: **SARE, G., R.S.C.J.,**
Mater Admirabilis Training College, Tal-Virtu'.
Training College Library.

1969: **SCHEMBRI ADAMI Anthony, Ph.L.,**
44 ,Brighella Street, Hamrun.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **SCIBERRAS, Lillian, A.I.L.,**
Villa Assisi, Coppin Place, St. Andrews.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **SCICLUNA, Sir Hannibal P., Kt., M.B.E., Hon. M.A.(Oxon)., Hon. LL.D. (Malta), F.S.A., L.P.**
Villa San Martin, San Martin.
Hon. President, Malta Library Association.

1969: **SULTANA, John B., B.A., A.L.A.,**
"Croeso", Hyacinth Street, Santa Lucia.
Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology Library.

1969: **VELLA, Joseph A., S.J.**
St. Aloysius College, Birkirkara.
St. Aloysius College Boys' Library.

1969: **XUEREB, Paul, B.A., LL.D., Dip. Lib. (Lond),**
5/5, Merchants Street, Valletta.
Royal University of Malta Library.

1969: **ZARB, Daniel,**
39, Victory Street, Zabbar.
Zabbar District Library.

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First Annual Report

As this is the first General Report which I have the privilege to submit to the Annual Genera! Meeting, I shall not incur Duncan Gray's criticism of "trying to demonstrate that the period under review has been the most prosperous and the most successful". But perhaps I cannot avoid a persona! element since my shared ambition to set up the *Malta Library Association* has now been achieved and, as co-founder, I am also co-responsib'e for both its successes and its failures.

It should be emphasised, perhaps at the very outset, that the most important thing about our Association is that *it does exist.*

This may seem *parvum opus* to our Anglo-American pioneers, but it is quite an achievement if we remember that attempts to establish a Greek Library Association have been abortive since 1950! This is even more significant if we realise that like the Greeks "we still prefer to talk and philosophise rather than to read". Unlike so many other associations, the MLA has been neither "restful nor riotous", but it has certainly succeeded in focusing nationa! attention on librarianship. Indeed, since the Association came into existence on the 22nd March 1969, there has been such extensive publicity that at no other time has there been so much affecting so many in the development of libraries and the role of librarians in Malta and Gozo.

Membership

From the original nineteen founder-members we have now gone up to thirty-seven. These come from a great variety of libraries, but unfortunately not one person from the Royal Malta Library — our National Library — is a member of the MLA. This may be attributed either to simple !ack of interest or to a deliberate act of policy. Whichever it is, it is certainly deplorable, and we will keep on telling them so until they are tired of hearing us.

Registration

This has been under active consideration ever since Council met for the first time. But before we could proceed with the official registration, the Registrar of Trade Unions requested two important amendments to our Constitution. It will now be for this General Meeting to decide; but whichever the outcome we must always stress the importance of professionalism in our Asscciation.

Council Meetings and Decisions

Council met for the first time on the 10th April 1969, and has met on four subsequent occasions.

A number of important decisions were arrived at, and in a summary way, I shall indicate those which may be classified as ground-clearing:

(i) discussions of Council to be held in Maltese, but the minutes to be written in English;
(ii) holding of all Council Meetings at the Students' Union in Valletta;
(iii) funds to be deposited at Barc'ays Bank (Valletta);
(iv) waiving of the joining fee in the case of founding members;
(v) designing of letterheads and monogram of the Association;
(vi) supplying of membership cards and brochures for all founding and subsequent members;
(vii) setting up of 3 sub-committees;
(viii) publishing of occasional newsletters and the MLA Yearbook, which will first appear in the Autumn of 1970;
(ix) arrangements for a Library of the MLA.

The following appointments were made by Council:
Miss Marie Said, Assistant Secretary of the MLA;
Miss Lillian Sciberras, Librarian;
Dr Paul Xuereb, Fr A. Sapienza, Miss Lillian Sciberras and Mr C Bonavia, members of the Editorial Board for the MLA Yearbook.

On your beha'f I should like to extend the Association's congratulations and warmest wishes to Mr Thomas Bason (who was for a time the Assistant Treasurer and Librarian) on his obtaining a two-year scholarship to study at the College of Librarianship, Wales; and to Mr J. P. Spiteri, Assistant Librarian of MCAST, for passing the Part I of the Professional Examination at the same Col'ege.

Sub-Committees

During its third meeting Council set up 3 sub-committees on the *Problems of Censorship*, the *Malta National Bibliography*, and the *Libraries of Religious Institutions*.

The first sub-committee was set up by amalgamation of the *Censorship Reform Group*, originally founded on the initiative of the Students' Representative Council of the RUM in October, 1968, with the MLA's sub-committee on Problems of Censorship. This happy fusion was agreed upon to give the group a more official and permanent status. Although this is not the p'ace to make a comprehensive survey of the social nonsense of our local censorship practice, it

should be unequivocally stated that the aim of the CRG has always been the REFORMATION and not the ABOLITION of book-censorship as regulated by Articles 28 and 30 of the Post Office Act. Unless and until the decisions of the Printed Matter Appeals Board are challengeable in Courts of Law our censors will carry on scissoring the Marriage Art between the sheets depriving us of what the butler saw in the room at the top!

The MLA members of this sub-committee are Dr. P. Xuereb Fr. A. Sapienza (both of whom were among the original members of the Group) and Miss Marie Said, who was appointed Secretary of the CRG. Dr. P. Xuereb, Mr. J. Sultana and Mr P. Cassar were appointed members for the MNB, whilst Fr. A. Sapienza and Mr. E. Catania are the sub-committee members of the LRI.

The chairman is *ex officio* member of all sub-committees.

I am sure we all agree that these are three important milestones, pointing the way to ambitious but pratical objectives, all within the reach of the MLA. We are confident that these able and determined members will not run out of business just yet, but they will be following Frank Withers's advice "to face all ways and more in all directions."

Library

Council is pleased to announce that the Library of the Royal University, which certainly contains the best collection on Library Science in Malta, has been selected (subject to approval by the University authorities) as the basic collection of the MLA Library. This arrangement will enable our Association to devote an annual sum of money for the purchase of books and periodicals in librarianship, which are either lacking from the University Library or fall outside its scope. This material will be accessioned separately from, but shelved with, the RUM holdings on librarianship.

Ministerial Meeting

On 15th April, all Council members called on Dr. P. Borg Olivier, the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism. Amongst other topics discussed we stressed the need for the implementation of the *Public Lending Library System* which should be totally divorced from the Royal Malta Library, as this was not really inspiring any confidence in its role as Lending Library. Council referred to the *ad hoc* sub-committee appointed by the Hon. Minister, and to the Report which had been submitted some twelve months previously. We informed the Minister that the MLA was always ready and indeed expected to be consulted and represented on all committees in connection with all future Library development and education. During the Ministerial meeting we repeated our determination to "build up a book-conscious generation".

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Public Lending Library Service

An encouraging sequel to the above was Government's decision, announced on 26th April, to set up this new Library Service. The relevant passages from the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance were circu'ated to all members in our Newsletter of last July. In an excellent editorial of the 27 May, the *Times of Malta* commented: "One of the most heartening educational news items of recent years was the announcement... to set up a new Public Lending Library service to rep'ace the present highly unsatisfactory one... Although the blue-print for the setting up and development of the new Service has not yet been published, it is known that the development plan is spread over five years coinciding with those of the Third Five-Year Plan. During this period, a building will have to be constructed, or... adapted to serve as the Service's headquarters... Just as important will be the purchase over the five years of a number of book-mobiles which wil! go round the villages... For a number of reasons, it is likely that the person chosen for this task wil! be an expatriate librarian. At the same time, provision must be made for the expatriate librarian's replacement by a Maltese as soon as possible. It is thus heartening to see that funds are being made available in this year's estimates for the training of an Assistant Librarian..." The editorial concludes: "The new PLLS is due not only to the willingness of the Ministry of Education... to modernize Malta's public libraries, but also to the generosity of the British Government in making avai!able £23,000 over the five-year period towards the project's capital costs. Thanks are also due to the committee which drew up the plans for the service, and in particular to Mr. I.P. Allnutt, the British Council Representative in Ma!ta, whose drive and enthusiasm for the project were important factors in bringing about its success."

Since, to-date, there have been no evident signs of any progress in this project, we are entitled to agree with the firm comments made four days ago by Lord Robens, regarding the tortuous procrastinations of the present administration. Indeed, if Government does not accelerate its now familiar tortoise speed, not only this Association but the whole nation will become, as Dr. Savage once remarked, "as incapable as a centipede deprived of a'l but one foot!"

Library Summer Courses

The MLA Summer Courses on the "Use of Reference Books" was held during September at the University Library. Details of the course were sent to the Malta Union of Teachers, The Lyceum Secondary School Association, all Schools and the Press. Of the 24 persons who participated in this summer course directed by Fr. A. Sapienza, eleven were teachers, including one Headmistress. The

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Assistant Director of Education, Mr. J. Mangion, showed keen interest and promised his full support to our Association in any future training of Teacher-Librarians. The MLA could devise a number of refresher courses which could be followed by a certificate in school librarianship for successful participants. In this context I am sure we subscribe to Robert Jordan's view that "there is no library *within* the school, but rather the library *is* the school".

I.F.L.A.

Without any doubt the most significant achievement of our Association so far has been the affiliation of the MLA to the *International Federation of Library Associations.* IFLA *sive* FIAB was founded in Rome forty years ago "to promote international co-operation in the field of librarianship and bibliography, and particularly to carry out investigations and make propositions concerning the international relations between libraries, library associations, bibliographers and other organised groups".

On the 27 June 1969, the MLA applied for membership and at the invitation of Mr. Anthony Thompson — the General Secretary of IFLA — your chairman attended the 35th Session of the General Conference which was held in Copenhagen from 24 - 30th August. About 450 delegates attended, which was an increase of 100 over the previous year. The largest groups came from the USA (55), Germany (48) and Great Britain (47). The USSR, Canada, France and Czechoslovakia all sent parties of over twenty delegates. Australia, Arabia, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Korea, South Africa and *Malta* had one delegate each. Understandably, Denmark, the home country, provided 36 partcipants. Occassionally, references were made about the unbalanced representations of associations from Africa, Asia and South America. During my registration at the Royal Library School, where the Conference was held, some involuntary embarrassment was caused when your representative pointed out that the MLA was not an Italian association as was listed! However, it was some consolation to be told that the Italian delegate (from the National Central Library of Florence) was Dr Diego MALTESE.

At the opening plenary session on Monday 25th August, the Czech, the Slovak, and MALTA's affiliation to IFLA were officially announced, thus bringing the total number of IFLA's membership to 55 countries. It is not always easy to control one's emotion on such occasions, and I will never forget the unique privilege and the great honour of acknowledging the multi-lingual ovation given to the smallest and youngest library association by the 37 participating countries. For the first time in the history of local librarianship, Malta was being *represented, accepted* a full member, and had its representative *elected* as a voting delegate. This was certainly inter-

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national celebrity for our country. In Copenhagen, Malta was honoured. After addressing the General Assembly, I realised that at least one of our castles was no longer air-borne.

And now down to earth.

The wet weather was more than compensated for by the warm welcome and the overwhelming hospitality extended to all the delegates by the Minister of Cultural Affairs, K. Helveg Petersen and by the President of the Danish Library Association, R. Lysholt-Hansen, M.P., and all our Danish colleagues. In his presidential address, Sir Frank Francis outlined *three* areas where it was particularly important for IFLA to make its influence felt. These were (a) the area of sophisticated *library techniques* "which demand a high level of inter-nation co-ordination... and the maximum possible degree of compatibility in practice and in the machines; (b) the area of *developing countries* "by helping their advancement and stimulating their cultural identity in terms of modern life", and (c) the area of *library education* because in the words of IFLA's President, "our profession needs, and will continue to need at many levels, men and women who are imaginative and flexible, who have a gift for management and organization, who are ingenious and inventive, and whose professional training is designed to enable them make the most of these qualities".

Sir Frank Francis recalling the words of Heraclitus of Miletus that everything is in a state of flux reminded the general assembly that "much water had indeed flowed under the bridges of the Tiber, the Neva, the Danube, the Rhine and the St. Lawrence during the last six years" of his presidency. IFLA itself has changed and it was now universally accepted as *the* "recognised" international forum for the discussion of matters affecting the effectiveness of library services".

Quoting a remark made by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands during his recent address at the Third International Congress of Medical Librarianship in Amsterdam, Sir Frank agreed that "today's Librarian is not just someone who is handling knowledge and information. Our task has become such a specialised one that even the most critical layman cannot any longer deny that we must be able to speak, on a basis of equality, with specialists in other fields. about the information in our keeping". In other words we are no longer passive custodians but active communicators of all knowledge (whether haptic, acoustic or graphic) in libraries.

IFLA's heavy programme included 3 Plenary Sessions and 16 Sectional and Committee meetings. Delegates had every opportunity to discuss and react to the various Progress Reports, Draft Programmes and Sectional Papers prepared by several member-associations covering national, university, public, special (and future

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LUNAR) libraries! The majority of the papers were in English, but simultaneous and consecutive translations and interpretation in French, Russian, English and German were provided, though somehow Italian was not catered for. The main theme of the 35th Conference was *Library Education and Research in Librarianship.* I particularly enjoyed hearing Jack Dalton (U.S.A.) V.V. Serov (U.S.S.R.) and my old Principal Frank Hogg (U.K.) outlining the state of education for librarianship in their respective countries. I could not, of course, attend all meetings, but it would certainly prove profitable if one could read in private what was heard in public about the phenomenon of library automation and mechanisation, the systematic approach to book provision, the economic aspects of exchange of library material, standardization of library statistics, international loans, the MARC shared cataloguing projects, sophisticated forms of library co-operation and co-ordination, libraires and bibliography, and the therapeutic value of bibliotherapy. These are just a few facets of today's 'information explosion', but even IFLA seems unable to advocate any safe methods of enforcing Maurice Line's *"Bibliographic Birth Control"*.

U.N.E.S.C.O.

In addition to taking an active part at those meetings I was able to attend, I was somehow fortunate to obtain an interview with C.V. Penna, who, being Unesco's Representative, was the most sought after participant at IFLA. Despite Ranganathan's absence we could still appreciate his remark that "in this currency civilization it is usual for *everyone* to measure *everything* in terms of money". More in sorrow-than-in anger, I pointed out to Mr. Penna that whereas so many countries (including some non-IFLA members) were being "generously irrigated by a continuous flow of Unesco's money", there were other countries, including Malta, which were desperately in need of both financial and technical assistance in the field of documentation, libraries and archives. I strongly emphasised the need for Malta to have both a retrospective and a current National Bibliography, the training of personnel for libraries and archives, books and book mobiles, some pilot project in school-library service and the training of school librarians, and the setting up of a School of Librarianship.

Mr. Penna was most sympathetic, but he did make it absolutely clear that such requests had to emanate initially from the Central Government of the country concerned and not from library associations or other similar bodies. He also emphasised that should Government accept our submissions they must attach *proper priority* to library development in Malta. If our case were to be presented on these lines, Unesco would almost certainly include our country's library needs in their future programmes, and Penna himself

would be only too willing to give the matter his own personal attention.

On the strength of this information the MLA Council has already requested another interview with the Minister of Education. From Unesco's Report which was submitted to IFLA we intend to quote that "during 1968-1969 Unesco experts were sent on missions to the following countries to advise them on the organisation of their library and archives services, viz., Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Jamaica, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Singapore, Tanzania and the United Arab Republic". In addition, books and equipment, including, in some cases, bookmobiles, were provided for Argentina, Cambodia, Ceylon, Cyprus, Honduras, Jordan, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Uruguay", and again "preliminary work will be undertaken in preparation for an expert meeting on the national planning of library services in the Arab States, which is envisaged to be held in 1971-1972".

We are eagerly awaiting this chance of having our second meeting with the Minister, but should Government *penelopise* on this issue we will underline President Nixon's philosophy, endorsed by all Unesco and IFLA experts, that "libraries are the *banks* of our educational system, and books are the tools of education, yielding rich dividends in our campaign against ignorance".

F.I.D.

Another important discussion which I had during this Conference was with Dr. Felix Sviridov, Secretary General of the *International Federation for Documentation.* This organisation known as FID, representing a total of 63 countries and 11 associations, co-operates closely with IFLA and is primarily engaged in providing the knowledge and services of the world's leading information experts to various countries, organizations and individuals. Like his Unesco counterpart, Sviridov was also very enthusiastic and most helpful. As there is a strong possibility of his coming to Malta next Spring or Summer the MLA should take every opportunity of pursuing further the possibilities of getting the services of F.I.D.

The Copenhagen Conference revealed the importance of having occasional personal contacts with such distinguished delegates. Because of our insularity and relative isolation this is perhaps even more essential. The experience of meeting the Ashworths, Chaplins, Chandlers, Callanders, Daltons, Gardners, Hoggs, Kirkegaards, Maleks, Pflugs, Taubers and the Zogners has certainly proved for me that there is no substitute for the opportunity of coming face-to-face with those who are not only former tutors, lecturers and professors, but above all Colleagues, and more, expert practitioners, in our own field of library science.

Before the final meeting it was announced that Moscow will be the venue for the 1970 Conference, Liverpool in 1971 and (perhaps) Budapest in 1972. I made a point of asking and canvassing to have Malta considered as a possible centre for any year after 1972. I trust the incoming Council of the MLA will pursue this further. We cannot over-emphasise the importance both for our Association and for the community at large, not excluding the benefit to tourist statistics of inviting IFLA to our shores for one of their international conferences which could be held either at the University or at MCAST.

Sense and Statistics

Coming back from the City of fairy-tales and 'pornoshops', I can now fully appreciate all the praise which K.C. Harrison has lavished over the Scandinavian Library System.

In Malta we are more than aware of the residual library problems facing our Association. The answer to these problems is not, of course, the wholesale *adaptations* of their methods to the local library scene peculiar to our own bi-lingual community. Indeed the pattern of development, because of local circumstances and resources, may have to be necessarily different. However, we should not be discouraged by adoptions and adaptations because "resemblence doesn't always imply dependence".

In the U.K. (where 500 million loans are issued annually) the *1965 Standards* demand an expenditure of 4/- per head of the population in the purchase of books, and the *minimum* provision of 250 volumes per 1000 people. Moreover, Public Libraries have to provide a *basic service* by purchasing *annually* 7200 books and 50 periodicals. The total annual cost of Public Libraries alone in England and Wales is now running at about £45 million. When Denis Howell, the Minister responsible for the implementation of the *Public Library Act (1964)* was asked what he thought about such standards he replied that any reduction in these figures would produce the "economics of bedlam"! Perhaps it would be worthwhile reproducing in full his reasoning for arriving at this conclusion. According to Howell libraries "are the bed-rock of our culture, and using books is the most important of all educational attainments... from the ability to read all else follows; but the ability to read pre-supposes the availability of books, before we learn to use books we must *possess* them". Former Vice-President H.H. Humphrey, speaking at the (1969) convention of the American Library Association was in perfect tune with the above when he commented: "Should anyone in government say books are low priority, I question their fitness to govern."

Coming now to Malta, we may perhaps ask why all the recommendations of *Unesco's Symposium* and the *Dainton Report* on

the functions and services of National Libraries have been ignored. Admitted'y, these are bulky documents to digest, but Richnell's comments that "any expenditure on national library services is in the nature of capital investment in our future, providing for the material, as well as the intel'ectual, improvement in our condition" should not take all that long to read and understand.

Already in 1966 Ma!ta was represented in Belgium, together with 13 other countries, at the Council of Europe Colloquy on "Public Libraries and life-long integrated education". This Conference — the first ever he!d in Western Europe at government level about public libraries — discussed and amplified Unesco's manifesto of 1949 on the role to be played by public libraries *sive* resource centers, "which shou'd promote the spread of knowledge, education and cu!ture to all elements of the population". But again we seem indisposed to implement the Colloquy's recommendations (all listed in the *Library Association Record* of March 1967) and its conclusion that "centra! government authorities, should give full support to local initiatives and intervene, where necessary, in respect of areas which lack adequate library facilities".

Further evidence of a myopic approach is to be found in our scarcity of librarians, qualified or otherwise. Indeed, not one of the present five (seven by 1973) professional librarians is connected with public library services. Possib'y, one day we shall be able to move some of the mountains of Maltese indifference if we have enough faith in Bateman's theory that "the poorest reading countries need the best librarians."

It is up to us as a Professional Association not only to keep a watching brief, but as and when appropriate, to take formal action with regard to working conditions and sa!ary scales. I should like strongly to recommend that the MLA takes two important documents under the most serious considerations. The first is the *Working Conditions in Libraries*, published by the Association of Assistant Librarians of Great Britain in 1968. This report, edited by Peter Jordan, was drawn up as a result of a comprehensive survey on recruitment, education, training, salaries, welfare and working conditions in all types of libraries in the United Kingdom. The second report is that published recently by the *Salaries (Anomalies) Commission*. Although it is too early to comment on the 387 paragraphs, we may draw up briefly two general conclusions. Firstly, there will be, genera!ly speaking, improvement in salaries; secondly, there are still a number of inadequate gradings at the top and lack of proper impetus from the bottom. To my mind the all-important break-through was the Commissioners' figures and the importance accorded to the Librarian at MCAST. On page 107, para. 313 of the Report, it states that "The scale of Librarian has been adjusted to a higher level on the basis of the pre-requisite qualifica-

tions, duties and responsibilities of the post." And again, "The scale of Assistant Librarian has been adjusted to the same extent as that of the Assistant Lecturer 'A', the present parity between these two grades being considered correct." I am, of course, assuming that within a reasonable period. MCAST will provide for the post of a Deputy Librarian.

In Gozo we already note that the Librarian will at least be spared all nightmares of space, in that during 1968 only 294 books were added to his stock, which, according to a naughty rumour has now been increased by ONE book since April 1969. Bewilderment may be the right word to describe this folly, especially when we recollect that in 1968, the Victoria Library loaned 19,198 books as against the Valletta figure of 17,335. Unless this is the penalty for Gozitan bibliophilism, someone, somewhere, requires urgently bibliotherapeutic treatment! There would in fact seem to be room for at least a pioneer survey of all library resources, including government departments, religious institutions, industrial concerns, research associations, professional organisations etc., and possibly the creation of a Library Advisory Committee (such as has been set up in England and Wales) generally to supervise the development of the service and to formulate and maintain national standards regarding stock, staff, salaries and status.

If the Roberts arithmetic of book-provision for the requirements of adults and children were applied locally, we should have to purchase *annually* at least 75,000 volumes, costing approximately £110,000. In terms of staff, on the standard ratio of 1:2500 of population, we should have to have at least 120 librarians, 40 per cent of whom should be professionally qualified. Since we currently have only 5 qualified librarians, and not 48, we obviously require to increase *quam citius* the presently available number by something approaching 1,000 per cent.

Assuming we want to work from concrete comparisons, we may well measure ourselves against the English Borough of Bromley, which I had the opportunity of examining in detail through the great kindness of its Deputy Librarian, Mr. Ron Surridge. Bromley, the largest area (40,000 acres) of the London Boroughs, is closely comparable to Malta as regard population (304, 680), and also distribution of built-up and rural areas, the general structure of social classes and so on. Within this Borough, which has 14 permanent and three mobile libraries serving 53 sites, there are three College Libraries for the exclusive needs of some 4,000 students, and 120 primary and secondary Schools with approximately 42,000 pupils. It is important to note that expenditure on the libraries and stocks of books of these colleges and schools is met from the school capitation allowance which are separate from those of the Borough Library Service.

For the year 1968/69 Bromley spent £64,800 on book purchases, where our estimate for 1969/70 including "other expenses" was £3,900. For 1968/69 Bromley purchased 66,608 volumes, where we, in the calendar year 1968, obtained by purchase, gift and deposit, a mere *6,238*. And Bromley, of course, is officially and explicitly seriously worried because it spends by far the lowest amount per registered reader of all the thirty-two London Boroughs.

We, to be sure, did earmark an extra £3,000 for preliminary expenses in connection with the *Public Lending Library Service*, but this P.L.L.S. now seems destined, like so much in the modern world, to pre-natal extinction!

The £3,900 provided in the 1969/70 estimates of books and periodicals for the Royal Malta Library (which also functions as the National Library), the Juvenile Library *and* the 47 District (Circulating) Libraries in Malta and Gozo, all 'housed' in class-rooms and looked after by members of the teaching staff of the Education Department acting as part-time librarians, means, decimalised, that we are spending an average of only 2.7 pence per capita — less than one-sixteenth of the general U.K. figure of 4/-.

It is very well to say, as many undoubtedly will say, that we are not comparable to a country like Great Britain, that we should not attempt too much too soon, that we are just starting to appreciate "the social purpose of libraries," and so on. What is not always appreciated is that a country like ours must spend *more*, not less, than the more developed nations — that we have, in fact, *to catch up*, and cannot catch up if we spend on expansion alone. Thus we fall further and further behind, and we forfeit many of the chances which international organisations are prepared to offer library systems with realistic plans of their own and the will to carry them out.

On the basis, for instance, of a survey carried out in 1966 by Frank Hogg (Principal of the College of Librarianship in Wales, Adviser to M.O.D. and Unesco, and the first International Professor of Library Science at the University of Pittsburg in the U.S.A.), the Government of Denmark *alone* contributed the handsome sum of £50,000 to help in the establishment of the Tanzanian national library service.

Institute of Librarianship

A modest, but important, beginning in our library education was the recently introduced City and Guilds of London Institute's *Library Assistant's Certificate*, for which 42 students have registered for the course at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technlogy. The four part-time lecturers (all qualified librarians) are watching with great interest the outcome of the examinations in December (1969). Naturally, this is no substitute for full professional edu-

cation, and although we cannot yet afford a library school proper, we should cetrainly be thinking of providing the essential basis of such an Institute of Library Science (preferably attached to either the University or MCAST), within the next five years or so. The attainment of this objective wil' entail adequate provision of study-tours abroad for practical work in libraries, especially during the summer months; use of externa! examiners and of overseas lecturers in librarianship; and an internal syllabus providing for adequate study of local and Mediterranean circumstances. There may a'so be advantage in enlisting the help of the academic staff for special instruction in the library needs of the different academic discip'ines. The great importance which African Universities attach to such Institutes is quite apparent from the application-forms which all stress that "the greatest single restriction upon library deve'opment throughout the continent has been an acute shortage of professionally qualified staff". One of the most widely discussed items on IFLA's agenda was, in fact, the proposal by Guy Marco (Dean of the Library School in the Kent State University of Ohio, USA) to establish an *International Library School.* When I addressed the General Assembly of the Conference, I offered the modified proposition that *Regional Schools* should be set up for Asia, Africa, South America, the Mediterranean Countries and other areas as might be appropriate. I think this went down rather well with most delegates, and it is hoped that something along these lines may materialise.

Into the Seventies

A'ready on the credit side we can mention the efficiency of the British Council Library, which is not only the oldest (officially opened in 1939) but also one of the busiest Counci' libraries issuing over 50,000 books annually; the setting up of the Central Bank of Malta Library; the opening of the Duchesne Library run by the Sacred Heart Nuns at St. Julians; the formation of a Parish Library project at St. Gregory's in Sliema; the creation of the Reader's Circ'e, a non-profit making private circulating library project to provide up-to-date books in English for overseas and other residents in Malta; the Ranfurly Library scheme, which, again on the recommendation of the British Council Representative, will be providing thousands of books for primary schools; and the designation of the Royal Malta Library as one of the United Nations Depository Libraries.

In virtue of Malta's cultural Agreements with Italy and France, we now have better facilities for the reproduction of documents, exchanges of library material and the annua! exchange of an Archivist for a period of two to three weeks. Provision is also made for a visit, each year, by a Maltese Librarian to various Italian libraries and to the *Istituto di Patologia del Libro* in Rome, which will

undertake the restoration of Codices, MSS and the rarer books of the Royal Malta Library.

Although we are still far from having a *Public Records Office*, we may soon expect to see publication by the Royal University Press of yet another volume (9 *in* 11 so far) of the *Catalogue of the Records of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem,* which aims to cover in detail 6574 manuscript volumes in 17 'sections' of the Order Archives (1107-1798) in the Royal Malta Library.

With a little more co-operation the consolidation of the *Union List of Serials* of religious and theological significance, and the compilation of a *Directory of Maltese Periodicals* (DIMAP) should also soon be going to enlarge the range of bibliographical tools available to local scholars and research workers.

We have seen in addition the library at MCAST progressing rapidly though limited to an expenditure of around £2,500 p.a., and — most important of all — the substantial increase of the University Library funds up to £27,000, a very reasonable step towards a figure which might well be a third as much again.

The move of the University at Tal-Qroqq has indeed made a considerable gap in the library resources of Valletta. But there is already flourishing the *Shakespeare Memorial Library* (opened in October 1967) attached to the Junior College of the University, which since 1966 has had an excellent neighbour across the road in the Jesuits' *John XXIII Memorial Library.*

Conclusion

I have borrowed, to conclude, an observation from the presidential address to the Library Association of Great Britain by Wilfred Ashworth, who will be the first official guest of the MLA a forthnight from today, when he will have the opportunity to reaffirm that "it is folly and false economy for anyone to say at any time, and particularly to say it now, that this country cannot afford the expanding services of good libraries. The plain truth is that it cannot afford to be *without* them."

Let us again remember that in 1968 the number of loans issued by our public libraries, and described by our National Librarian as "very high", was 157,502. For the year ending March 1969, Bromley borrowers exceeded this figure by almost *four million* books! In effect, everybody in Malta reads on average one-half of one book per year! Obviously we are in need of a public library service capable not only of putting its own domestic affairs in order, but of projecting a dynamism into a population too little familiar with the real power of the written word.

This will be achieved only if we believe in the down-to-earth motto — KOTBA GHALL-KOTRA.

J. Montalto
Chairman

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Second Annual Report

A year ago presenting our First Annual Report I said that the most important thing about our Association is that *it does exist.* I hope that this year I may say that we not only exist but have made some appreciable steps forward.

In fact within a few days of that General Meeting we had the honour of entertaining Mr. Wilfred Ashworth who chose Malta for his official visit to a foreign country. Ashworth summed up his week-end tour as "action-packed, scarcely believing how much was fitted into so short a time making it one of the happiest events in my year of office." The M.L.A. is indeed grateful to both Miss L. Sciberras and Mr. C. Bonavia who gave so much of their time in organizing this successful visit so beautifully — down to the last happily conceived detail.

During his public lecture on *Education for Librarianship* Ashworth told us: "I consider you to be fortunate in having a new organization in which it should be possible to unite all types of library and librarian from the very start." The past President of the Library Association warned us that this "can be a long, hard path to tread, with many set-backs, and requires far sighted dedication," but he himself had little doubt that the spirit which brought about the etsablishment of the Malta Library Association showed this dedication, and continued "I believe you have potential on this Island for the development of a library-service which could become a matter of national pride".

One of the most important achievments in local librarianship can be seen in the ladies and gentlemen who have just come forward to receive their City and Guilds Library Assistant's Cetificates. Twenty students sat for the examinations. Nineteen passed, five with distinction and twelve with credit. We congratulate them and we thank Mr. W.D. Pritchard, Head of the Department of Business Studies at M.C.A.S.T., the two tutors Mr. J. Sultana and Dr. P. Xuereb, Fr. A. Sapienza and indeed all who have contributed to produce such gratifying results. It is intended that the new course, beginning in October 1971, will be under the auspicies of the MLA, which has, of course, noted the financial recognition recently accorded to holders of this Certificate in Britain, and will continue to press for increased remuneration for local holders.

Also deserving of our congratulations are Mr. Ashworth, who after many years in industrial libraries has been appointed the Chief Librarian of the Polytechnic of Central London; Mr. T. Bason for successfully completing his Part I Professional Examinations, and Mr. James Packman whose lifetime's work in librarianship has brought him a well-deserved O.B.E.

Once again we are grateful to Mr. George Waller, Information

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Officer with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, for his talk on *Library Problems in Special Libraries,* and to the American Embassy for their kind loan of two films on Book-Mobiles and Public Library Service.

Membership and Registration

During the year membership has risen to 48, but once again the Royal Malta Library has remained conspicuous by its absence We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Gordon B. Neavill, a Peace Corps Volunteer, currently working at the R.M.L. The full list of members will appear in the MLA Yearbook which will be published next month.

Apart from electing Sir Hannibal P. Scicluna Kt., (former Librarian of the R.M.L.) as the first Hon. President — to whom Council subsequently added Mr. W. Ashworth and Mr. I. P. Allnutt (British Council Representative since 1967) as the first two Hon. Members of the Association — the last General Meeting authorized our official registration as a Trade Union. This was immediately attended to by Council, which noted assurances from the Registrar of Trade Unions that our status as a Professional Association depended solely on our own constitution. Registration (No. 146) became official on the 18th December, 1969.

Central Bank of Malta

On 15th January Council decided to take up with the Central Bank of Malta the conditions of appointment in the call for applications for the post of Research Assistant in the Library. These conditions seemed open to interpretations damaging to the status and qualifications of our members, particularly in that we felt quality was being sacrificed to expediency. The Chairman and Secretary met with the Governor, Dr. P. Hogg, and other senior officials who were informed that it was our duty to make crystal clear the fact that library work is *not* something which just anyone can do. In fact Dr. George Chandler, City Librarian of Liverpool and next year's President of the Library Association, maintains that "academic qualifications would not be considered as a certificate of competence to practice librarianship". After the meeting Council was pleased to note that the Central Bank had every intention of sending the appointee for professional training in librarianship.

Government Estimates 1970/71

In view of the Government Estimates for 1970/71 and in response to an appeal by Mr. P. Cassar, Council wrote in June to the Minister of Education, the Librarian of the R.M.L. and the Chairman of the Gozo Civic Council regarding the status and salary of

the Junior Assistant Librarian of the Gozo Public Library. Neither the Minister nor the Librarian acknowledged our letter, but the Hon. President of the G.C.C., Mr. Anton Tabone wrote to agree that both the designation of the post and the salary are *grossly unfair*. Our Secretary has since spoken to the new President of the G.C.C. Mr. A. Vassallo, who shares his predecessor's views on this matter.

In the course of the same correspondence of the 19th June, Council asked for a clarification of statements in the above Estimates (which, incidentally, increase the book-vote from £3,900 to £5,800) regarding the intended creation of a new post of an Assistant Librarian in the R.M.L. which has not hitherto had even one member of its staff at this grade. We informed the Minister that the MLA "is very much interested in knowing what steps are envisaged to ensure that the appointee will have professional training and/or appropriate experience up to the level our Association wishes to insist upon, especially since the R.M.L. currently employs no professionally-trained librarians whatsoever".

As we cannot record any progress on this post we are assuming that the now familiar "centipede" of Dr. Savage has been deprived of its *last* foot!

Gozo Public Library

Following questions put to the House of Representatives by the Hon. Dr. Micallef Stafrace, the MLA was shocked to hear of the procedures adopted by the Gozo Public Library for the acquisition of books — procedures which we can only describe as blatantly ridiculous. Despite our public pronouncements and numerous published criticisms, the Gozo Civic Council declined to alter its impracticable policy and again requested 50 booksellers and stationers to quote, within 10 days, the *minimum* prices for 500 works. There is now very little we can do apart from repeating with a prominent Gozitan "those who are either too busy or too careless to take interest in the Gozo Public Library should have the courage to resign or the decency to bury their social vanity and refuse re-appointment". But we do sympathize with the Junior Assistant Librarian who has been deputizing for the Malta Librarian since 1952 — with a salary and status inferior to that of a Head Cheesemaker!

Italo-Matese Cultural Agreements

In view of a somewhat "mysterious" passage in the 1968 *Report on the Working of the Public Libraries Department*, the Association has taken steps to have another Parliamentary Question asked regarding provision made under the *Maltese-Italian Cultural Agreement* "for facilities to be given in Italy for a yearly visit for research purposes by a Maltese Librarian to Italian libraries". When

Government has explained the even profounder "mysteries" of setting up a book-starved Secondary Education for all, we may perhaps expect to hear the names of any librarian selected during these last three years, and how, when and if he, she or they were chosen. But will this prove another rarity?

It is understood, however, that another agreement was reached at the Second Session of the *Italo-Maltese Mixed Commission* in Rome last June, and that one member of the University Library Staff would be invited to Italy each year for a visit of about ten days. The Italians would also undertake to supply books, microfilms and slides for the Royal University.

U.N.E.S.C.O.

On the 11th June, Council also had occasion to write to the Education Department concerning a letter Government had received from Unesco inviting candidates from Malta to attend a course for teachers of librarianship in developing countries to be held in Denmark from August to November, 1970. As no communication on this subject had reached the MLA from the Ministry of Education, Council expressed its deep disappointment at the omission. Of course, we never received an acknowledgement for this protest and therefore, one must again conclude that the Hon. Minister of Education does not yet see fit to work with the MLA on professional matters, notwithstanding Ashworth's hope "that our Government would take note of this new Association and show itself open to receive the sound expert advice which we could offer".

Summer Courses

Because of the encouraging response it was decided to hold two separate courses which took place at the R.U.M. Library: the first in July on *Classification and Cataloguing;* the second in September on the *Use of General Reference Books.* In all 55 registered and 49 participants (of whom 12 are MLA members) were issued with the Association's newly introduced *Certificate of Attendance.* Certificates were also presented to the 17 who had attended the 1969 Summer Course. The fact that these courses have been successfully carried out during our traditionally 'dead' months is no normal performance. We have reason to be grateful to the four tutors not only because these courses have drawn on their spare time, but also because they have donated their fees to augment the meagre funds of the Association.

Education in Librarianship

In last year's Annual Report it was strongly suggested that we shou!d be thinking of providing the essential basis of a Library

Science Institute by the mid-seventies. Within a fortnight Mr. Ashworth himself was encouraging us "to work towards an indigenous training in librarianship". Council agreed that it was necessary to study by means of a questionnaire the local demand for training in librarianship, and an *ad hoc* Committee on *Education for Librarianship* was set up on January 15th. The members of this Committee are J. Sultana (Secretary), C. Bonavia, J. Packman, who was co-opted, and J. Montalto.

In developing a policy for the MLA, the Committee realizes that the most important thing for our Association is that it should attempt to develop *professional standards.* This has to be acheived by education, by running short courses for librarians, and ultimately by setting up a library school.

The recommendations of the Committee will be on the following broad lines:

a) *Short-term Policy*
City and Guilds — October, 1971.
Summer Courses to be encouraged and held annually.

b) *Intermediate Term Policy*
Ideally to set up a professional course in librarianship to be recognised locally and abroad. This course, leading to the Diploma in Librarianship, will be based *mutatis mutandis* on the Part I Syllabus of the L.A. (UK), but with an accent on local requirments.

c) *Long-term Policy*
The setting up of a Department of Librarianship at MCAST or at the R.U.M. by the mid-seventies.

The Committee is also studying ways and means how best to participate in the *Mature Registration Scheme* introduced last October in Britain by the L.A. for Senior graduate library staff above the age of 27. According to the past President of the L.A. some courses in conjunction with this scheme could be mounted in Malta.

To-day we can do no more than recall Ashworth's message that "the most important thing is to accept conditions as they are and then to work out our route ahead — not from some other convenient place but from *here*!"

We have all heard or read Ashworth's warning that in doing this "we will have critics in plenty and many pessimistic Jeremiahs". But perhaps the most notable exception is "Roamer" who has constantly drawn to everyone's attention the optimism of the MLA "which is deserving of high praise for its efforts in leading the island towards the comprehension of a discipline that is so culturally essential — the science of librarianship."

The MLA Library

Miss Lillian Sciberras was appointed Librarian of the MLA at the Council Meeting of 5th September, 1969, when Mr. T. Bason resigned to take up professional studies in Wales.

On the 24th April 1970, the University Library Committee accepted our request to set up the Library of the Association at the R.U.M., where our members are allowed normal borrowing facilities from the library science section.

As has already been extensively publicised, the generous donation of the British Council in July of this year has doubled our holdings which now stand at 160 items. It is with gratitude that we record once more our appreciation of Mr. Allnutt's gift of £100 worth of books. Other important gifts include a collection of 20 pamphlets on librarianship by Miss L. Sciberras, 31 duplicates from the College of Librarianship Wales, and a run of the *ALA bulletin* (1964-1969) by Fr. A. Sapienza S.J. Professor G. Tonna Barthet has kindly offered to donate on behalf of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, the sum of £25 for the purchase of books. The generosity of donors will always be an important, indeed vital, element in the development of our library.

Since January 1970, the Librarian has been editing the *MLA Library News-sheet,* which covers all recent accessions and current contents of professional journals.

Exchange agreements have been initiated with the College of Librarianship, Wales, the Deutsche Bucherei in Leipzig, the School of Library Science of the University of Toronto, the American Library Association in Chicago, and the School of Library Science, Kent State University, Ohio, USA. It is hoped that these exchanges will result in a fruitful co-operation with our overseas colleagues.

The Burgess Lecture

The most significant public event was, undoubtedly, the Anthony Burgess Lecture on "Obscenity and the Arts". Three days before his uncensored talk the *Sunday Times of Malta* published Marie Said's interview with this most talented and prolific novelist. In view of his forthright comments it was no surprise that the University Science Lecture Theatre was filled to capacity on June 10 — only Apollo Astronauts could attract a bigger audience!

We may have had all sorts of reaction to that brilliant lecture, but I think we all agree that Burgess expressed his views most exhaustively and explosively and with great authority, and went a long way to prove his claim that because of censorship and other reasons we are very far from keeping abreast of the outside world. Indeed we all agree with the comment made by Mr. Harvey after the lecture that "a wide section of learning, research and knowledge

may be made difficult in Malta due to the liability of restricted access to world books... A nice balance is essential... and the scholar must be given the benefit of doubt in such a case unless the people of the Island are to go forward today with one hand tied behind their back. We should bend with the current and not stand immovable until inevitably a complete break occurs."

It is a pity that until the initiative taken by the MLA, no group or institution in Malta had yet seen fit to introduce to the public those foreign residents amongst us, who, like Anthony Burgess, have a glowing reputation abroad. Congratulating our Association for promoting the Burgess lecture Professor Aquilina wrote: "You have done the country a great service because the lecture made it clear to us all that we can no longer rely on the inner strength of our national heritage, both mental and social, without developing the intellectual weapons that can ensure the survival of what is good and therefore defencible... not emotionally but intellectually".

Our Association naturally considers it an essential part of its work to bring the really eminent literary figures of the present day to the notice of our still very limited reading public. The MLA is all out to encourage and promote public discussions of national importance and controversial nature.

The Burgess Lecture will be published as an *Occasional Paper* of the MLA and we hope the same procedure can be followed with other lectures in future.

Censorship Reform Group

In our third issue of the *Newsletter* members were informed that on the 10th December, 1969, a delegation from the *Censorship Reform Group* had an interview with the Minister responsible for the Post Office, Dr. J. Spiteri, the Post Master General and other Senior Civil Servants. The CRG delegation consisted of Dr. P. Xuereb, Fr. A. Sapienza and Mr. Louis Grech. The interview had been requested by the Group to discuss the desirability of amending the Post Office Act to allow decisions of the Printed Matter Appeals Board to be challengeable in the ordinary tribunals of the Land. After the delegation had expressed its views on the injustice obtaining under the present law, the Minister said that an Inter-Departmental Board had been set up to enquire into the possibility of improving the administration of postal and customs censorship, and to suggest any reforms in the law it might feel to be needed. He invited the CRG to make its representations regarding its views on censorship reform.

The CRG Memorandum was drawn up and sent to the Secretary of the newly formed Censorship Committee. Credit for this work is due to Dr. Paul Xuereb, Chairman of the group. It was

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most encouraging to read the consensus of public opinion endorsing our proposed amendments (published in the *Sunday Times of Malta* on 3rd May) which would give persons aggrieved by the final and conclusive (although unintelligent) decisions of scissors-clipping-censors the right to appeal to the ultimate arbiters in Courts of Law. During the first six months of the current year 273 books by over 250 authors were withheld including a very well known novel by John Braine. At least we thus got the General Post Office's own admission that they had room at the top!

I.F.L.A.

Council's decision to extend an invitation to IFLA to hold the General Conference in Malta in 1973, was discussed at length by the Executive Board of the Federation during their meeting in mid-May. According to Mr. A. Thompson, the General Secretary of IFLA, there now seems to be a distinct possibility that the Executive Board will hold its three-day meeting in Malta on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th December. This will enable the President, Dr. H. Liebaers (Director, Royal Library, Brussels), the six Vice-Presidents and all IFLA officials to get acquainted with our islands of which they have confessed "complete ignorance". It will also give the Board an opportunity to assess the local facilities before they actually decide to hold their 39th (or a subsequent) International Conference in Malta.

Due to various circumstances no delegate from Malta could participate at this year's 36th session of the General Conference which was held in Moscow from 29th August to 7th September. But we hope to make up for this by having a strong delegation attending the 1971 Conference which will be held in Liverpool from August 26th to September 4th.

Public Lending Library Service

Nineteen months ago the MLA issued a Press Release in which it noted with satisfaction that the Government of Malta is to go ahead with plans for a new Public Lending Library Service. It now seems that we were working under the illusion that Government really meant what it said. Because of this, it is now worth recording our present frustration, and as Mr. Allnutt remarked in a letter on this subject: "I do not wish to be pessimistic but from the experience of the past two years I find it difficult to believe anything until it actually happens".

Our own *Newsletter* of January this year editorially raised the question: "Could it be that the basic commitment of bringing the book to the people is a very feeble one? We trust that the near fu-

ture will disprove our suspicion. Few things can keep our democratic way of life ticking than an electorate that reads and, consequently, thinks. And this is why we think that the projected Public Lending Library Service *must* come true."

To this one might add it is always possible that if Government constantly takes back with one hand what it has offered with the other, sooner or later something will drop if only by accident.

Conclusion

It might be well to conclude with a quotation from a letter sent to us by Mr. Bernard Palmer (Education Officer of the Library Association of Great Britain) in acknowledgement of our first Annual Report:

"For such a small Association you lack nothing in the way of fire, and if push can get you anywhere you will arrive! I must say that I can never understand a developing country underestimating the importance of a public library system. If one had to choose, I would choose to install a public library system before secondary or higher education. Teach 'em to read at primary school, and let 'em loose in a library and you are half way to an educated democracy. It is true the more able will make the most use of facilities, but they will be a self-selected minority, not one chosen by arbitrary methods on these hot days in the Summer. This is the cheapest way of spreading education widely — why don't Governments cotton on?"

J. Montalto
Chairman

Libraries and Librarianship in Malta

A bibliography compiled by **PAUL XUEREB,** Librarian, Royal University of Malta.

Ashworth, Wilfred, Education for librarianship; a lecture under the auspices of the Malta Library Association delivered by Wilfred Ashworth on Sunday 26th October 1969. Valletta, Malta Library Association, 1970. 12p. (MLA ocasional papers, 2)

Borda, Mary. Libraries — a service to industry and commerce. *The Malta Economist*, October 1969.

Cardona, Ġuże'. Il-Bibljoteka. [Malta] Dipartiment ta' l-Informazzjoni u Turiżmu, 1958. 2p. (Tajjeb li tkun taf, 11/58)

Caruana, Annetto Antonio. The Royal Public Library of Malta. Malta, Government Printing Office, 1898, 15 p.

Cassar Pullicino, Joseph. The University Library, 1839-1842. *Journal of the Faculty of Arts* (Royal University of Malta) v. 1 (3) p. 213-43.

Formosa, Harry B. The Royal Malta Library; what it is today, *Times of Malta Special Centenary Number*, March 28 1966, p. 29-30.

Garrison Library closes down. *Times of Malta*, June 26 1964, p. 5

Leopardi, Edward Romeo. Il-bibljoteka nazzjonali ta' Malta, 1555-1955. Malta, Stamperija ta' San Ġużepp, 1955.

Mackenzie-Grieve, Averil. Library of the Knights of St. John — Archives at Malta. *Country Life*, February 20 1948, p. 373-374.

Malta Library Association. First annual report of the Malta Library Association presented by the Chairman at the General Meeting on 12th October 1969. Valletta, Malta Library Association, 1970. 16 p. (MLA occasional papers, 1).

Malta Library Association. Newsletter. No. 1- 1969- Irregular.

Montalto, Josie. Malta Library Association — first anniversary. *Sunday Times of Malta*, March 22 1969, p. 16; March 29 1969, p. 16-17.

Prance, Claude A. Living with books in Malta. *Sunday Times of Malta*, April 6 1969, p. 19.

Royal Malta Library. Report on the working of the Library. Malta, Government Printing Office, 1903 —
Published in *Reports on the working of Government Departments* until 1947/48, and separately thereafter.

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Royal University of Malta, *Library*, Annual report, 1951/52 —
Unpublished. A synopsis is published in the Annual Report for the University.

Royal University's new library; nucleus of cultural research centre. *Times of Malta*, December 23 1952.

Sapienza, Anthony F. If I had £3 million... an exercise in wishful thinking. *Sunday Times of Malta*, April 30 1967, p. 10-11.

—— National lending libraries for industrialists; a service in research. *Sunday Times of Malta*, September 1 1968, *Education and Business Supplement*, p. vi-vii.

Scicluna, *Sir* Hannibal Publius. The Royal Malta Library and some of its treasures. *Library Association Record*, v. 40 (4th s., v. 5), 469-472.

Simsova, S. and Mackee, M. A handbook of comparative librarianship, London, Clive Bingley, 1970. 413 p.
Brief information about Maltese libraries and bibliography on p. 114.

Xuereb, Paul. Bookmobiles — the solution to our school library problems. *Sunday Times of Malta*, September 3 1967, *Supplement*, p. v.

—— Malta's library scene. *Sunday Times of Malta*, December 14 1969, p. 34-35.

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S.P

Libraries in Malta

A directory compiled by ANTHONY F. SAPIENZA, S.J., Librarian John XXIII Memorial Library.

The information given under each entry has been supplied by the Librarian concerned. Entries are to be read in the following sequence: name of library; full address, when this has been thought necessary; year when library was established; type of library; stock in number of volumes; areas of interest collected by the library; name of present Librarian; and, when available, the hours of service to the public and, if, any, the registration fee charged.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Type of Library

P Public or District Library
R Library of a Religious Institution
Sc School Library
Sp Special Library
U University andòor College Library
Other types as indicated

Areas of Interest

0 Bibliography, Librarianship
1 Philosophy, Psychology
2 Religion, Theology
3 Social Sciences in general
33 Economics
34 Law
37 Education
38 Commerce. Trade
4 Languages
5 Natural Sciences
6 Applied Sciences. Technology. Engineering.
61 Medicine
7 The Arts
72 Architecture
8 Literature
91 Geography. Travel
92 Biography
93 History
Other areas of interest as indicated

FLORIANA

Capuchin Provincial Library; Capuchin Friary, Floriana; 1588. R; 20,000; 2,4,92,93; Rev. Sylvester Bonavia. O.F.M. Cap., B.A., B.A (Hons).

Seminary Library; Archbishop's Seminary, Floriana; R: 5700; Joseph M. Camilleri

GUARDAMANGIA

Medical School Library. See under **MSIDA,** Royal University of Malta Library.

TAL-HANDAQ

Service Children's Secondary School Library; 1946; Sc; 8,000; 4,5,7,8,91, 92, 93 and Fiction; Mrs. Chloe Singleton.

HAMRUN

The Lyceum (Malta) Library; 1960; Sc; 2,000; 37,4,8,91,92,93; Carmel G. Bonavia.

MSIDA

Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology Library; 1963; U; 13,000;

33,38,6; John B. Sultana, B.A., A.L.A.; 8.30 a.m. — 5.30 p.m. during term-time, slightly shorter hours during vacations;

Royal University of Malta Library; Branches: Valletta, Shakespeare Memorial Library; Guardamangia, Medical School Library; 1769; U; 100,000; 0,1,2,3,33,34,37,38,4,5,6,61,7,72,8,91,92,93 & Melitensia; Paul Xuereb, B.A., LL.D., Dip. Lib. (Lond.).

PAOLA

Technical Institute Library; Corradino Road, Paola; 1965; Sc; 5,000; 5,6, M. Borg, B.A.

ST. JULIAN'S

St. Michael's College of Education Library; St. Julian's; 1956; U; 9,000; 1,2,3,37,4,5,7,8,91,92,93; Joseph M. Boffa.

Duchesne Library; 14, Sacred Heart Avenue, St. Julian's; 1969; Children's Library; 3,000; 2,3,4,6,7,8,91,92,93, Fiction & books for very young; Sr. Theresa Agius, R.S.C.J.; October to June, Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 4.00-5.30 p.m.; July to September, Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 5.00—6.30 p.m.; entrance fee 2/6, and 1d. per book borrowed.

VALLETTA

British Council Library; Pjazza Indipendenza, Valletta; 1939; P; 18,000; 0, 1,2,3,33,34,37,38,5,6,61,7,72,8,91,92,93; Miss Magda Camilleri. Winter hours: Mondays to Fridays 9.00 a.m. — 1.00 p.m., 3.00 — 7.00 p.m, Saturdays 9.00 a.m. — 12.30 p.m.; Summer Hours: 8.00 a.m. — 1.00 p.m.; 5/- per annum.

Central Bank of Malta Library; Castille Square, Valletta; 1968; Sp; 1,500; 33, 34; Joseph Grima, B.A.; Library books may be used "on premises" by students and other interested persons during office hours.

John XXIII Memorial Library; 226 St. Paul's Street, Valletta; 1966; R; 4,000; 1,2,3; Anthony F. Sapienza, S.J.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 4.30 — 7.30 p.m., Saturdays, 9.00 a.m. — 12.00 noon; 10/- per annum, 5/- for students.

Royal Malta Library; 36, Old Treasury Street, Valletta; 1555; P & National Library; 320,000; 0,1,2,3,33,34,37,38,4,5,6,61,7,72,8,91,92,93; Vincent A. Depasquale, B.A., LL.D.

Shakespeare Memorial Library. See under **MSIDA,** Royal University of Malta Library.

VICTORIA (GOZO)

Gozo Public Library; Vjaringa Street, Victoria; 1853; P; 60,000; 1,2,3,34,37, 4,7,72,8,91,92,93 & Local History; Mr. Paul M. Cassar; October 1st to June 15th: Mondays to Fridays, 8.00 a.m. — 12.00 noon, 1.00 — 4.00 p.m.; Saturdays, 8.00 a.m. — 12.00 noon; June 16th to September 30th, daily 8.00 a.m. — 1.00 p.m.

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